

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 2, which has been canceled. New claims 3-9 have been added.

Claim 1 stands rejected 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Alameh et al. (U.S. patent number 6,104,808). Claim 1 recites in part:

“a first casing and a second casing which are foldable to each other along a bearing portion, wherein a front face and a back face of one of the first casing and the second casing are formed with respective sound emission holes that are aligned with each other; and wherein a speaker is provided at a position corresponding to the sound emission holes, and further wherein a front face of the other of the first casing and the second casing is formed with a through hole that is aligned with the sound emission holes in a state that the first casing and the second casing are folded together.”

Alameh teaches a second housing element 204 having a speakerphone opening 237 on one side and an earpiece opening 210 on the other side (6:33-51 and Fig. 2-4). A first housing element 202 includes a keypad 206 (3:46-47 and Fig. 2). The plurality of slots that make up the earpiece opening 210 are located such that when the second housing element 204 is in the closed position, each of the plurality of slots seals against one of the plurality of keys comprising the keypad 206

(6:45-51). Accordingly, Alameh fails to teach or suggest a front face and a back face of a casing having respective sound emission holes that are aligned with each other and another casing having a through hole that is aligned with the sound emission holes in a state that the casings are folded together. In Alameh, the earpiece opening 210 and the speakerphone opening 237 of the second housing element 204 are not aligned with any through hole in the first housing element 202. Alameh does teach a second sound port 211 on the second housing element 204 and an aligned first sound port 270 on the first housing element 202 (4:48-55 and Fig. 2). However, neither the second sound port 211 nor the first sound port 207 has a respective aligned sound emission hole on the opposite side of its housing element. Therefore, Alameh fails to teach or suggest every claimed limitation. For at least this reason, amended claim 1 is allowable over Alameh.

Claim 2 stands rejected 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Alameh. Claim 2 has been canceled.

Claims 3-5 have been added, all of which depend from claim 1.

Independent claim 6 and dependent claim 7 have been added. Claim 6 recites the following limitations not taught by Alameh, “wherein a front face and a back face of the first casing are formed with respective sound emission holes that are aligned with each other and are located nearer to the bearing portion than the display.” Claim 7 depends from claim 6.

Independent claim 8 and dependent claim 9 have been added. Claim 8 recites the following limitations not taught by Alameh, “a keypad which is located on the second casing; wherein a front face and a back face of the second casing are formed with respective sound emission holes that are aligned with each other. Claim 9 depends from claim 8.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a

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condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 37122.

Respectfully submitted,

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